



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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To: Allegany County Media
From: Robert Matasich, Public Health Educator
Re: National Infant Immunization Week is April 24-30, 2023
Date: April 18, 2023

News Release: National Infant Immunization Week is April 24-30, 2023

Belmont, NY - National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is a yearly observance highlighting the importance of protecting children two years and younger from vaccine preventable diseases. This year, a primary focus is to ensure families stay on track for their children's well-child visits and routinely recommended vaccinations.

Children are exposed to thousands of germs and bacteria every day. This happens through the food they eat, the air they breathe, the things they put in their mouth, and the people they come in contact with every day. Babies are born with immune systems that can fight most germs, but some germs may cause serious or even deadly diseases a baby's developing immune system cannot handle. Immunization is a key tool in the fight against these sometimes-deadly diseases.

Immunizations have drastically reduced infant deaths and disabilities caused by preventable disease in the U.S. Through immunization, we can now protect infants and children from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before the age of two such as whooping cough (pertussis), rubella, and measles.

Protecting the entire community is a shared responsibility between families, healthcare professionals, and public health officials. Speak with your healthcare provider about your child's immunization records to catch up on any missing immunizations. This week serves as a reminder about the importance of staying on track with your infant's well-child visits and routine immunizations. Call the Allegany County Department of Health Clinical Services to schedule an appointment for any needed immunizations 585-268-9250. You can also visit us online at alleganycounty.gov/departments/health and check the New York State recommended childhood adolescent immunization schedule online at:

health.ny.gov/publications/2378.pdf

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